

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 SCI-06 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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P R 021237Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2188

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GW, WB, GE, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICIAL'S REMARKS ON FEDERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY

1. AT APRIL 30 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FONOFF REP
(LUECKING) REPORTED TO ALLIED REPS ON A NEW EXPRESSION
OF SOVIET VIEWS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY IN WEST BERLIN. THE OCCASION WAS AN
APRIL 26 LUNCHEON GIVEN IN MOSCOW BY FRG AMBASSADOR
SAHM IN HONOR OF HIS NEW DCM. LUECKING READ FROM SAHM'S
REPORTING CABLE. AMONG SOVIET GUESTS PRESENT WAS MFA
THIRD EUROPEAN DIVISION CHIEF BONDARENKO, WHO CONCLUDED A
DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS OF FRG MINISTER WITHOUT
PORTFOLIO EGON BAHR'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW BY NOTING
THAT, EXCEPT FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE, ALL BILATERAL QUES-
TIONS HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY SETTLED. HE ALSO SAID THE
SOVIETS WERE STILL AWAITING THE FRG'S DECISION
ON A SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AGREEMENT (BONN 3948).

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2. BONDARENKO THEN TURNED TO THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY, AND DELIVERED WHAT THE FRG AMBASSADOR FELT WAS A CAREFULLY PREPARED PRESENTATION. THE SOVIET SAID IT WOULD OF COURSE BE BEST IF THE FRG WOULD SIMPLY GIVE UP PUTTING THE FEA IN BERLIN. HE THEN REPEATED ARGUMENTS SOVIETS HAVE FREQUENTLY MADE ABOUT INCONSISTENCY OF THE FEA WITH SEVERAL PROVISIONS OF THE QA, AND COMMENTED THAT THE QA COULD NOT BE STRETCHED TO INCLUDE AN INTERPRETATION WHICH WOULD SANCTION THE FEA: SETTING UP THE OFFICE WOULD BE AN ILLEGAL ACT. FURTHER, THE SOVIET REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WERE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE THREE POWERS AND THE FRG IN THIS CASE; THE FEA WAS CLEARLY A CONCERN OF THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS THE WESTERN POWERS. "YOU ARE WRONG IF YOU THINK WE WILL TOLERATE THIS," BONDARENKO REPORTEDLY COMMENTED.

3. THE SOVIET OFFICIAL WOUND UP HIS REMARKS BY NOTING THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR HAD BECOME A MATTER OF PRESTIGE FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE FRG HAD PUSHED THE SOVIET UNION INTO A CORNER, LEAVING THEM FEW ALTERNATIVES, WHICH, HE DECLARED, WAS CERTAINLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY OF DETENTE. BONDARENKO CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO THE FRG TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, BUT THAT THE SOVIETS SAW NO NEED FOR THEIR PART TO DECIDE HURRIEDLY.

4. LUECKING SAID SAHM HAD ALSO REPORTED SOVIET AMBASSADOR (TO FRG) FALIN HAD ARRIVED IN MOSCOW FOR CONSULTATION ON APRIL 26, AND WOULD PRESUMABLY BE DISCUSSING THE FEA WITH MFA. SAHM HAD THE IMPRESSION THE PRESTIGE FACTOR WAS QUITE IMPORTANT FOR THE SOVIETS, AND THAT IF THE FEA WERE ESTABLISHED, FIRST "COUNTER-MEASURES" WOULD COME FROM THE GDR ALONG THE TRANSIT ROUTES TO BERLIN (THOUGH THIS LATTER INFORMATION NOT EXPLICITLY STATED BY THE SOVIETS).

5. FINALLY, FROM BONDARENKO'S MENTION OF THE FRG OFFICE OF FEDERAL PLENIPOTENTIARY IN BERLIN, SAHM REPORTED HE WAS "ASKING HIMSELF" IF SOVIETS SAW A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO FEA PROBLEM IN SOME ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH FEA WOULD BE DIRECTLY SUBORDINATED TO PLENIPOTENTIARY OFFICE. LUECKING SAID THIS WOULD BE "JUST NOT POSSIBLE" SINCE IT WOULD RAISE A NUMBER OF VERY DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN FRG. .

HILLENBRAND

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